

AMENDMENT(S) TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please add a paragraph beginning at page 1, line 4:

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

The present application is a 35 U.S.C. §§ 371 national phase conversion of PCT/EP2004/003696, filed 7 April 2004, which claims priority of German Application No. 103 16941.5, filed 12 April 2003. The PCT International Application was published in the German language.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 5, with the following rewritten paragraph:

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The invention relates to a transport or conveying device ~~according to the preamble of claim 1~~ for transporting articles between locations.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 7, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Transport devices of the type referred to here include ~~are known. They are designated, inter alia, as~~ accumulating roller chains. They have a flat transport element, on which a basic carrier provided with rollers is displaceable. An example of ~~what is designated as~~ a flat transport element is a rail which, as seen in cross section, is, for example, of rectangular design and extends along the transport path for the transport device. The height of the rail is substantially larger than its thickness, whereby it is designated ~~hence the designation~~ as a flat transport element. The basic carrier has a basic body provided with at least two rollers which surround the flat transport element at the two side edges running in the transport direction and are arranged ~~in such a way~~ that the basic carrier can be moved forward along the transport element while being reliably held ~~and is held on the latter reliably~~ in a predetermined position. The basic carrier has ~~mounted on it~~ at least one article carrier mounted on it which serves for keeping ~~secure~~ articles to be conveyed by means of the transport device secure.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 35, with the following rewritten paragraph:

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The object of the invention is, therefore, to provide a transport device which allows [[a]] reliable transport of ~~the~~ basic carriers, together with the article carriers, on the transport element, without impeding access to the articles held by the article carriers ~~being impeded~~.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 8, with the following rewritten paragraph:

To achieve this object, a transport device ~~which has the features mentioned in claim 1~~ is proposed. ~~It is distinguished in that~~ wherein the transport element itself is driven and consequently moves in the transport direction. ~~The result of this is that~~ This drives the basic carriers mounted on the transport element ~~are driven~~ along, without the need for further drive devices which would be provided along the transport path and would consequently obstruct access to the articles held by the article carriers.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 5, with the following rewritten paragraph:

An exemplary embodiment of the transport device is preferred, furthermore, which has a magazine which can receive a number of article carriers. The magazine is oriented with respect to the transport path in such a way that an article carrier can be pushed out of a basic carrier and received by the magazine. A new article carrier can then be pushed out of the ~~latter~~ magazine or another article carrier into the basic carrier.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 13, with the following rewritten paragraph:

An exemplary embodiment of the transport device is preferred, furthermore, which is distinguished in that the basic carrier has a basic body which is designed elastically at least in some

regions. In this case, ~~there is preferably provision for the basic body to be~~ is preferably designed elastically in such ~~a way~~ that it can adapt to the transport element when the ~~latter element~~ is guided via a deflecting roller.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 13, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Finally, an exemplary embodiment of the transport device is preferred including ~~which is distinguished in that~~ at least one actuation device is ~~provided, with the aid of which~~ aids one or more basic carriers ~~can to~~ be coupled to the transport element. This means ~~What is meant by this is that~~ the basic carriers are held on the transport element ~~in such a way~~ that they are moved forward not only on account of the friction between the rollers of the basic carrier and the transport element, but also by additional holding forces.

Please delete the paragraph at page 5, lines 3 and 4 in its entirety.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 5, with the following rewritten paragraph:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The invention is explained in more detail below with reference to the drawings in which:

~~figure~~ Figure 1 shows a basic diagram of a transport device in a top view;

~~figure~~ Figure 2 shows a cross section through a transport element of the transport device ~~illustrated in figure~~ Figure 1, along the line II-II ~~illustrated in figure~~ Figure 1;

~~figure~~ Figure 3 shows a basic diagram of the basic carrier reproduced in ~~figure~~ Figure 2, with an article carrier, in a top view;

~~figure~~ Figure 4 shows a basic diagram of a magazine cooperating with a transport device;

~~figure~~ Figure 5 shows a top view of a detail of a transport device according to ~~figure~~ Figure 1, and

~~figure~~ Figure 6 shows a front view of two basic carriers lying next to one another.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 21, with the following rewritten paragraph:

DESCRIPTION OF A PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

The basic diagram according to ~~figure~~ Figure 1 shows a top view of a transport device 1 with a transport element 9 which is guided around deflecting rollers 3, 5 and 7 and on which a number of basic carriers 11 with article carriers 13 are provided. The articles 15 held by the article carrier 13 are indicated here by circles.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 1, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The transport element 9 is guided, ~~here,~~ along a closed triangular path[[],]. ~~The the~~ basic carriers 11 ~~lying~~ lie outside the inner space 14 enclosed by the transport element 9, and thus ~~defines~~ define a transport path for the basic carriers 11.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 10, line 26, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The basic carrier 11 has connected to it the article carrier 13 which, here, carries an article 15, for example a basic syringe body or an ampoule 35.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 20, line 2, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The drive force is ensured by a transport element 9, on which basic carriers 11 mounted by means of rollers are mounted displaceably. On the one hand, this ensures that sufficient drive forces are transmitted to the basic carriers 1. On the other hand, it is possible to stop and accumulate the basic carriers by means of a stopper 21, without the further transport of other basic carriers not ~~covered~~ obstructed by the stopper 21 being impaired.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 23, line 4, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Where relatively slight gradients or height changes are concerned, it is possible to increase the frictional forces afforded between basic carrier 11 and transport element 9 in that the transport element 9 follows virtually a helix and is offset somewhat. It is also possible, however, to provide on the article carrier 13 or preferably on the basic carrier 11 a clamping device which, if required, ensures coupling between basic carrier 11 and transport element 9, so that height differences can be overcome, without the basic carriers 11 rolling back opposite to the transport direction on the transport element 9.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 25, line 24, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The transport speed of the basic carriers 11 and of the associated articles 15 can to some extent be selected independently of the transport speed of the transport element 9. For example, upstream of a processing station, the article carriers 13 can be transferred into an additional transport element arranged parallel to the transport element 9. The transfer from one transport element to the other becomes possible in that, on account of the dovetail connection 13, article carriers 13 can be displaced with respect to a basic carrier 11 perpendicularly to the transport direction along the axial length of the dovetail and consequently can be transferred onto a basic carrier which is arranged on an additional transport element running parallel to the transport element 9 and which is led further on at a different transport speed. To make it easier to transfer the basic carriers from one transport element onto another, one or more stoppers may be used.